

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002249/24
to the Commission
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(24 October 2024)**

Subject: Commission proposal to postpone the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 for one year

The Commission has proposed postponing the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, in breach of the EU's binding commitments to curb climate change. The economic and political actors behind this delay want to put an end to the regulation once and for all and intend to use the proposed postponement as a way of achieving their objectives. This delay would entail the destruction of 2 300 km² of forest and produce 49 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions ⁽¹⁾. Several small agricultural producers and companies are against reopening the regulation because it would increase uncertainty and jeopardise investments to prepare for its implementation ⁽²⁾.

1. Why has the Commission not collaborated with the countries most affected by the regulation, and why has it held up key elements of its implementation for months on end, such as the publication of guidance documents on 2 October?
2. In a post on X, Peter Liese MEP wrote that the Commission had decided to delay the implementation of the regulation. What contact has there been between Ursula von der Leyen's Office and the EPP for him to have known about the proposal to postpone before it became official?
3. Is postponement a condition for finalising trade agreements with Mercosur and Indonesia, and what impact will these agreements have on deforestation?

Submitted: 24.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(31 March 2025)**

1. The regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) ⁽¹⁾ was subject to an open public consultation which gathered more than 1.2 million responses, many from partner countries. Since EUDR's entry into force, the Commission has collaborated with partners and rolled out significant support, for instance via the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation Free Supply Chains. The Commission published guidance documents on 2 October 2024 ⁽²⁾ after the conclusion of internal discussions, which integrated the answers to questions received until the last moment throughout the consultation process.
2. The Commission, both at the level of cabinets and services, are in permanent contact with Members of the European Parliament and with Member States. Strengthening the partnership between the Commission and the European Parliament is an important principle that was explicitly repeated in the Political Guidelines ⁽³⁾. In its contacts with Members of the European Parliament, the Commission is committed to a balanced and fair approach, regardless of political parties.
3. The targeted amendment ⁽⁴⁾ is a response to support stakeholders, Member States and third countries in their preparations for EUDR implementation. It was never a condition for finalising trade agreements with Indonesia and Mercosur. In both agreements, the EU is working to include provisions in support of the fight against deforestation. While negotiations with Indonesia are not yet finalised, the impact on deforestation of the recently finalised Mercosur agreement is expected to be positive in terms of reduction of deforestation, due to the clear commitments undertaken by the parties and bearing in mind that EUDR prohibits the placing on the EU market of commodities from deforested areas.

¹ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/34861680-e799-4d7c-bbad-da83c45da458/library/5d098237-8bab-48a6-a6c8-2a907d80c791/details>

² <https://voicenetwork.cc/2024/10/companies-and-csos-oppose-any-calls-to-reopen-the-eudr/>

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206-247.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_5009

⁽³⁾ Adopted in July 2024: https://commission.europa.eu/about/commission-2024-2029_en

⁽⁴⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards provisions relation to the date of application, COM(2024) 452 final/2.